

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172394
ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DWELTER:NAB
APPROVED BY ARA:SASHELTON
ARA/CEN:RGRAHAM
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S/S-O:JTHYDEN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172394

LIMDIS FOR AMBASSADOR SOLAUN

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: PGOB, PPDC, NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA

REF: WELTER-SOLAUN TELCON JUNE 22, 1978

1. AMBASSADOR IS INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY THE TEXT OF THE
FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT SOMOZA AT THE EARLIEST
OPPORTUNITY. SHOULD AMBASSADOR HAVE OBJECTIONS TO CONTENT
OR TIMING OF LETTER PLEASE SO INDICATE IMMEDIATELY.
BEGIN TEXT:
DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I READ YOUR STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS ON JUNE 19 WITH GREAT
INTEREST AND APPRECIATION. THE STEPS TOWARD RESPECTING
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HUMAN RIGHTS THAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING ARE IMPORTANT
AND HEARTENING SIGNS; AND, AS THEY ARE TRANSLATED INTO
ACTIONS, WILL MARK A MAJOR ADVANCE FOR YOUR NATION IN
ANSWERING SOME OF THE CRITICISMS RECENTLY AIMED AT
THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT.

I AM PLEASED TO LEARN OF YOUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE

WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

I BELIEVE THAT MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS CAN BE A MOST APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND ALLEVIATING CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT THEM. I SINCERELY HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT CAN RAPIDLY REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMISSION ON A DATE FOR THEIR VISIT.

THE COMMISSION WILL BE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR DECISION TO ALLOW THE MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED "GROUP OF TWELVE" TO RETURN TO PEACEFUL LIVES IN NICARAGUA. THE FREEDOMS OF MOVEMENT AND OF EXPRESSION THAT ARE AT STAKE IN THIS CASE ARE AMONG THE CENTRAL HUMAN RIGHTS THAT THE COMMISSION SEEKS TO PROTECT.

YOU HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT A POSSIBLE AMNESTY FOR NICARAGUANS BEING HELD IN JAIL FOR POLITICAL REASONS. I URGE YOU TO TAKE THE PROMISING STEPS YOU HAVE SUGGESTED; THEY WOULD SERVE TO IMPROVE THE IMAGE ABROAD OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA.

I WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED TO HEAR YOUR SUGGESTIONS FOR A REFORM OF THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM IN ORDER TO ENSURE FAIR AND FREE ELECTIONS IN WHICH ALL POLITICAL PARTIES COULD COMPETE FAIRLY. THIS STEP IS ESSENTIAL TO THE FUNCTIONING OF A DEMOCRACY.
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I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE AMERICAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I HAVE SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT AND AM WORKING HARD TO HAVE MY COUNTRY RATIFY THE CONVENTION.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF YOUR DECISIONS, AND APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT OF THESE CONSTRUCTIVE ACTIONS. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE FULLY WITH MY AMBASSADOR, MAURICIO SOLAUN, WHO ENJOYS MY COMPLETE CONFIDENCE.
SINCERELY,
JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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